

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 01655 051857Z

43

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NEA-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 IO-14

OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /166 W

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P R 051851Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7730

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

SECDEF

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T LONDON 01655

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR - UK PROPOSAL ON DATA ON INCREASE OF
SOVIET FORCES

REF: VIENNA 967

1. WE HAD BRIEF EXCHANGE TODAY (FEB.5) WITH TICKELL
ABOUT UK PROPOSAL TO MAKE REFERENCE IN FORTHCOMING
PLENARY TO INCREASE IN STRENGTH OF WARSAW PACT FORCES
SINCE 1968. TICKELL SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY CALL US TO
FOREIGN OFFICE SHORTLY TO GO OVER THIS MATTER IN MORE
DETAIL. HE INDICATED THAT BRITISH FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT
USING DATA ON WP FORCES, OBSERVING THAT WEST CANNOT DROP
DATA QUESTION SINCE DISPARITIES IS ONE OF THE
FOUNDATIONS OF ALLIED POSITION. HE NOTED THAT THE

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PAGE 02 LONDON 01655 051857Z

DISPARITIES ISSUE HAS BECOME THE "STAPLE DIET" OF EVERY

BRITISH MINISTERIAL SPEECH ON MBFR.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION TICKELL DREW OUR ATTENTION TO ARTICLE IN THE TIMES TODAY BY ITS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND DATELINED LONDON REPORTING THAT "NATO CIRCLES CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEGUN TO STRENGTHEN ITS FORCES IN EAST GERMANY BEFORE THE TROOP REDUCTION TALKS GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS IN VIENNA." ARTICLE STATES THAT SOVIET FORCES IN DDR ARE NOW BEING PLACED AT 400,000; THE LATEST NATO ESTIMATE OF SOVIET TANKS IN DDR IS BETWEEN 1500 AND 2000; AND THAT IT IS THOUGHT SOVIETS HAVE ALSO BROUGHT IN 7000 TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

3. TICKELL SUGGESTED THAT INCREASING REFERENCE TO SUCH DATA IN THE PRESS MADE ALL MORE DESIRABLE WESTERN REFERENCE TO SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN INCREASE IN STRENGTH IN VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

4. WHEN WE SEE FOREIGN OFFICE WE WILL DRAW ON STATE INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 21244 AND 17468), BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE WHICH WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO SEND US. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT BRITISH WILL PRESS HARD ON THIS ISSUE.

ANNENBERG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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